

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

**HACKNEY
HEALTH**



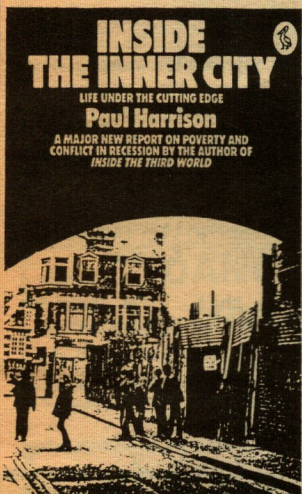
The final crunch for St Leonard's Hospital will come on Monday 26 September, when the District Health Authority meets to decide its fate. The meeting has been moved to Hackney Town Hall, because of the intense local interest and there will be a march from St Leonard's to a rally at the Town Hall. The rally starts at 4 pm, and speakers will include Tony Benn. Full details from Hackney Health Emergency, 249 4086 (days) 249 4828 (evenings).

4 pm

Mon 26 September



Pic: Ian Priddey



HACKNEY POVERTY EXPOSED AGAIN!

Once again, poverty and deprivation have been found to be alive and flourishing in Hackney. This time, the rumpus has been caused by the publication of a new book written by a former New Society journalist, Paul Harrison, called 'Inside the Inner City'. Harrison spent eighteen months in Hackney researching his material and has provided stark documentary evidence about the degree of "social problems" in the borough.

He found that one in five houses in Hackney are condemned as unfit for human habitation, that the borough comes at the top of the league on nearly every factor; single-parent families, overcrowding, average income, educational attainment. Unemployment is as high as anywhere else in the UK and the crime rate destroys many community initiatives.

Now all this is nothing new to anyone who lives here. It is certainly not news to Hackney Council, which is backing up Harrison's book by suggesting to the media that they should run articles or programmes on inner-city deprivation and offering to help. And it is not news either to the Tory government, who do, despite what Harrison believes, have a real awareness of what

life is like in the inner city. The reason why they don't do more to alleviate the problems are because they know it would require a massive injection of public money to go anywhere near providing solutions. And, more crucially, the people of Hackney do not have any political muscle.

The problem cannot be solved, as Harrison appears to see it, by appealing to Tory MP's social consciences--by pointing out what the Sunday Times called "the

moral bombshell in our city centres".

These are the social democratic solutions to Hackney's problems. But those of us who live in Hackney have the right to demand that a more radical approach is necessary, based on community action and involvement. The role of the Council will be crucial here, and it will be interesting to see the kind of political debate they initiate around the Harrison book. HPP will keep you informed.

Paul Harrison's book was published too late in August for us to do the detailed review we would have liked. However, next month we are hoping to publish a major feature on the book, with contributions from local community activists, politicians and other residents of Hackney. If you have any views then get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Inside

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- AND... Mrs Britain 1983 page 8

Police fund in Women's Centre mystery

Amarjit Kochhar has been sacked from her post at the newly opened Centre for Women in Downs Road, E5. The sacking has set off a political row with allegations from Police Committee Chair Brynley Heaven that the police have been lurking behind the scene at the Methodist church-sponsored women's centre.

Mrs Kochhar was hired in April as an Asian Community worker and helped to prepare the centre for its opening in May. In the following months Ms Kochhar began to feel that the (male) management of the centre did not like her way of working; she may have appeared too "radical". Staff were becoming disenchanted with the authoritarian atmosphere at the centre.

In mid-August Amarjit Kochhar was called into the office by Asha Glendenning, the Centre Supervisor, and pressed to resign. When Ms Kochhar declined to do this she was dismissed, banned from the premises and warned not to tell her colleagues she had been sacked. She was told she could appeal to the Project Sponsor, the reverend Ken Glendenning, who happens to be the husband of Amarjit's supervisor.

Mrs Kochhar said: "I am in a hopeless situation. I had not worked at the centre long enough to take my case to the Unfair Dismissals Tribunal, and my only right



of appeal is to the men who manage the centre."

Hackney Councillor Brynley Heaven has taken up Amarjit's case: "This is a cruel and blatant case of victimisation. We are awaiting to see what, if anything, the MSC can do about these Victorian tactics. I'm referring this to the Council's Women's Committee. It seems ridiculous that it should be a man who does the hiring and firing at a Women's centre," he said.

Councillor Heaven detects disturbing police manoeuvres behind the sacking. On several occasions uniformed officers have "dropped in" to the centre. Police interest in the centre culminated in a £1500 donation from the "stolen property fund".

"Money buys influence," Heaven told HPP. "We are seeing the police intervene directly in society. They are trying to make the community accountable to them rather than the other way round."

Heaven alleges that this police generosity is based on certain understandings that have been reached with the Women's centre management:

* Councillors were dropped from the invitation list

Continued on page 8.

Pic: Hackney Pensioner's Press



No Benefit

The housing benefit cock-up continues: both locally and nationally the bureaucratic bungling is rapidly becoming a bigger disaster than the reorganisation of local government in the 1970's.

Bad legislation, brought in too quickly. This may be the case, but even so the officers in the council's housing department seem to have been particularly inept and inefficient at getting their act together. We wouldn't claim that Hackney tops the national table for badly implementing the new scheme, but the borough must be coming close.

Untold numbers are still not getting their benefit through and are being threatened -- council tenants included! Pensioners are still paying rent out of their reduced supplementary benefits, unable to understand that they no longer need to pay -- and the rent offices continue to accept the money, making the task of advice workers even harder. Other people are getting into genuine arrears because although their income has gone down, the council hasn't informed them that they still need to pay something. Will any such arrears be written off?

Suffering

Unfortunately it is the people who were already the worst off who are suffering the most: the disabled, the elderly, ethnic minorities, single parents etc. Ironically the very people that a "radical, socialist borough" should be helping.

But the maladministration isn't just confined to Hackney not paying out benefit, we know of people

just over the Tower Hamlets border who are being paid twice. Hackney continues to churn out giro's despite honest Tower Hamlets tenants asking them to stop!

Lockhart Murdock at the Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations told HPP that part of the problem is due to the inadequate publicity that has been put out by the borough to explain the working of the system. And what little there has been has only been available in English. But the main problem seems to be the inadequate number of extra workers that Hackney took on to administer the scheme. At one point the Housing finance office closed its doors to the public due to the volume of queries. Why the number was so low is hard to understand, especially as the costs here would have been met by central government. Hackney could also have delayed the implementation of part of the scheme if it clearly wasn't ready to cope with it all at once.

Many local groups pointed out the inadequacy of the council's preparations, so why were more people not taken on sooner? Why was the scheme not introduced over a longer period? Why was no action taken to remedy the situation once it became obvious that things were not working out?

The councillors themselves have been keeping a low profile and relying on their officer. But a working group has now been set up to involve councillors more directly. More staff and premises have been taken on, so while things might not be sorted out by this month there may be a glimmer of hope for all those people who are still awaiting their housing benefit.

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Man on the go

Neil Kinnock's unstoppable progress towards the leadership of the Labour Party is to have one side-effect in the maelstrom of Hackney politics which seems to have been so far unremarked. He has, probably unwittingly, caused there to be a change in the chair of the Council's Housing Committee. The incumbent of this worthy post is up-and-coming Charles Clarke, sometime student leader, community activist and organiser of trips to Cuba. For the last three years or so, Charles has been a Councillor, bringing dignity and bearing to that honourable office, but what he really wants to be is a Proper Politician, certainly an MP, and preferably Prime Minister. With all the confidence of a Grantham grocer's daughter he is moving inexorably along that path. A year or two ago he became a political assistant to Neil Kinnock, and now, by happy chance, he is set to hoist himself even further. Next month, the Leader of the Opposition's office....next year a convenient by-election perhaps....who knows where fate may lead our erstwhile comrade?

Back in Hackney, this suddenly fashionable place discovered by New Society and Sunday Times journalists, the problem arose: what do we do about the Housing Committee? Now, no one in their right mind would really want to be chair of a Housing Committee in a borough like Hackney with the prospect of another five years of Thatcherism. Rents will be going up, repairs will be going down, the lists will get even longer and there will be virtually no money for new projects, unless the Council can spring the Krays from Parkhurst and get them to do a bit of toenail pulling on the DoE mandarins.

The leadership pondered over the problem. The vice chair of the committee, they decided, was one of nature's deputies. Ken Hanson may be a whizz at cabbage-growing but he was not suited to the gruelling heights

of the chair. The extraordinary decision was taken to consult the Director of Housing Tony Shoults, who he would like to see in the chair. That sort of thing would not have happened in the past, I can tell you. Fancy asking a council officer who he wants to see as his political boss! Tony Shoults suggested some names, including solid middle of the roaders Andrew Puddephat and Jim Canon and, somewhat startlingly, the debonair ultra-leftist Brynley Heaven, scourge of G division and Scotland Yard. None of these were suitable to the Kendall-Kahn leadership, who preferred to leave them in their current positions. Hilda Kean refused and no one wanted to ask Maureen Colquhoun, who is deemed to have too abrasive a manner.

There was nothing for it: an unknown quantity had to be selected, and the Fickle Finger of Fate has pointed to John Bloom, who does have the advantage of having lived in Hackney for a good deal longer than most of the rest of the May 1982 intake. Thus we can expect to see young John promoted to the front benches in the not too distant future.



INSIDE LEFT

Now what of the leadership election itself? This is being treated as a bit of a yawn amongst the party people, as they troll back from their sunny jaunts abroad. There is something of a division between the soft and hard left inside the parties, although both the Hackney South and Hackney North delegates will be voting for Eric Heffer for leader on the first ballot. When he is eliminated, then everyone will presumably switch, with reluctance, to Kinnock, and everyone will be happy, including those who wanted the party to vote for Kinnock in the first time round. As to the MPs, Ernie Roberts will certainly be voting for Heffer. (Ernie's commitment to accountability is so great that he would vote for one of the Borgias if Hackney North wanted him to). The new Mr Sedgemore, sometime Bennite, will vote for Kinnock. At least that's what he's been saying in his extremely boring New Statesman column, when he hasn't been wittering on about athlete's foot.

That's that. I'm looking forward to an autumn of political intrigue with a song on my lips and a spring in my steps. Are you?

WELL DONE

Dear HPP,

Congratulations on the success of the Hackney Centre of the Unemployed and other groups against the SCC visit to Hackney. We, in the claimants unions, believe that the SCC are now using new tactics and we are investigating these. In the meantime, Claimants Unions are campaigning for long-term payments for all claimants, including the unemployed. At present the latter are being forced to live on even less money than other claimants. They never qualify for long-term benefit.

Claimants are being divided into two classes: the "deserving" and the "undeserving". Thus the "scale rates": £25.00 on the dole and £32.70 for long term-claimants. The unemployed are subjected to constant harassment; who else has to put up with filling long claim forms without assistance; with the threat of no money if it is wrongly filled in? No other claimants have to prove their case with unemployment review officers every so often. No other claimants have to suffer financial penalties for dismissal or for leaving a job for any reason.



letters

Unemployment is here to stay. Many people have been unemployed for a long time and are likely to stay that way. Therefore, we demand long-term rates for all unemployed people, as of right. Nobody gets enough and we campaign for higher rates all round, but first we must end this discrimination.

Claimants unions are campaigning all over the country for long-term benefits for all and we call on all unwaged people to support us in these demands. Petition forms are available from the Federation of Claimants Unions, the Rights Shop, 296 Bethnal Green Road, E2 (739 4173). The campaign will culminate in a presentation of the petition to Downing Street in November.

Yours fraternally,
Douglas Kepper.

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GROWING OLD WITHOUT STRESS

The older we get, the more likely we are to need help from a social worker, home help, community nurse or, sometimes, a hospital. In Hackney services for elderly people do not get the attention they deserve and services for those with mental or emotional problems get the least attention of all. Andrew Roberts has been investigating the situation for HPP.

For a number of reasons mental welfare work and work with the elderly tend to be treated as "non-priority" areas by Hackney Social Services. Last year this created a front page sensation for the Hackney Gazette when two bereaved grandparents were revealed to have adopted more than 50 cats. The wife explained to neighbours that the cats were her children. She and her husband were living in appalling conditions and many of the cats were dead or dying. The area social services office had known for over a year that this family had problems but "more pressing" cases had prevented them from visiting.

Neglect of elderly people can be, and often is, fatal. In June this year the local coroner, Dr Chambers, told Hackney's housing and social work departments that they should "learn a lesson" from the death of a 61 year old woman found drowned in the Grand Union Canal. When this lady had become distressed a social worker had made one - unsuccessful - attempt



to meet her. The housing department acted more decisively: it sent her notice to quit.

Lack of interest

We spoke to Alan Jones, a senior social worker at the Drysdale Street Office, who is studying the implications of the coroner's recommendations. He believes that clear guidelines to Hackney's social workers, set out in a booklet, would help avoid much unnecessary suffering. Twelve months ago, after the House of Cats scandal, he set up a working group to produce such a booklet. They are still working on it. Part of the problem, he explained, is the number of council departments, health

and other agencies that need to work together if an elderly distressed person is to be helped.

A housing officer complained to us about the difficulty he found getting anyone to take an interest when an elderly tenant had emotional problems. He recently attempted to find help for a woman suffering from intense loneliness. The health services refused to help because they defined her problem as social, but social services would not visit her because, they said, there was nothing they could do to help.

The council's research officer, John Bligh, referred to several studies showing mental welfare work as low in job satisfaction for social workers. In fact,

working with the elderly lacks glamour not only for social workers but also for many doctors and nurses, and large numbers of Hackney's senior citizens get a raw deal from the health services. A GP told us that some Hackney doctors will not have older people on their lists. As patients age they are simply struck off!

CHAMH, the City and Hackney Association for Mental Health, wants to reverse these attitudes and secure more progressive policies for mentally distressed elderly people in Hackney. A year ago it took up the cudgels on behalf of better hospital services and on Monday 12 September they will broaden their campaign with a public meeting in Homerton Library at 7.15 pm. It is called "Why Old People

with Mental and Emotional Problems get a Raw Deal" and the speaker will be Dr Tony Whitehead, a radical psychiatrist who over the past 20 years has pioneered community based services for elderly people in Colchester, Manchester and Brighton.

Series of meetings

CHAMH's meeting will launch a course on mental distress in old age sponsored jointly with the Hackney Workers Educational Association. Details of the course, starting on Tuesday 20 September at Shoreditch Health Centre, are given in the What's On Section on page 7. The course will conclude on Monday 29 November with a public forum on facilities for mentally distressed elderly people in Hackney held at Shoreditch Health Centre. A panel of health and social service leaders, chaired by Councillor Ruth Gee, have been invited to answer questions on local facilities for elderly distressed people.

These meetings are for people of all ages and it may be that some people will be concerned about going out alone in the evenings, so if you would like to come, but need transport, or will be attending and can offer someone a lift, please ring or write to the course co-ordinator Andrew Roberts at 177 Glenarm Road, E5 0NE (Tel: 986 5251). Transport cannot be promised but Hackney WEA will see what can be done. Course programmes with the dates of all meetings are also available from Andrew Roberts.

Challenges & yawns

Hackney Council has recently issued its annual report: Hackney '83 Challenges and Changes. This turgid 8 page broadsheet catalogues Council initiatives over the last 12 months, on issues ranging from police accountability to dog nuisance. Below we bring you the edited highlights.

The key statement of Hackney '83 Challenges and Changes crops up in a summary of the Council's finances:

"The 1981 Census shows Hackney as the most socially, commercially and environmentally deprived area in the country. Yet in the last four years Hackney's grant (from Central government) has been cut by £30 in real terms, a direct loss of £275 for every resident."

The report states that jobs, housing, equal opportunities, social services and the environment have been its major 'themes' for the year. It continues:

"As a socialist council we have a commitment to maintain essential services and to improve them in response to the needs of the people for whom they are intended."

However economic realities make 'Challenges and Changes' read too much like a warmed over rehash of old manifestos. To give an example: the 'Better Services' section

boasts that the council started 100 new housing units in 1982/83. Wow! They promise us 200 next year.

With the threat of more Tory rate-penalties on the horizon the council is in a particularly difficult position. However it will not win the confidence and support of the public by releasing dull and inaccessible documents like 'Challenges and Changes'.

Most of the policies mentioned are well meaning and praiseworthy, for example its positive policy on equal opportunities, declaring Hackney a nuclear-free zone and its anti-porn moves. Its involvement in campaigns to prevent closure of St Leonard's hospital, to fight the M11 and to oppose PWR nuclear installations at Sizewell are all commendable.

However the most important points tend to get swamped in a torrent of detail. Like an earnest review of a school play, Challenges

and Changes goes out of its way to mention everybody who had a hand in the production. By trying to highlight all the wonderful achievements of its first year, the council pulls a rose coloured veil over the main obstacles to progress in Hackney. It all sounds too good to be true.

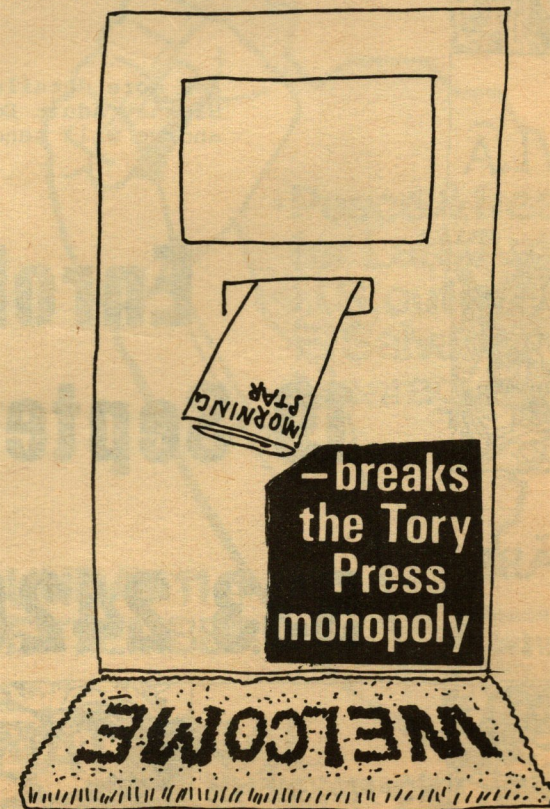
For example council workers who have been on the receiving end of its radical new approach to industrial relations will not be impressed by leader Anthony Kendall's comments:

"We have undoubtedly made mistakes over the last year but we hope we can learn from them for the future. It is important that the councillors and council workers unite to achieve the aims of the council for the benefit of the people of Hackney."

The leader may have good intentions. But the town hall has gone strangely quiet in a post election funk. If Challenges and Changes is anything to go by, it sounds as though the ruling Labour group needs to recapture its sense of direction. They could start by looking for new speechwriters.

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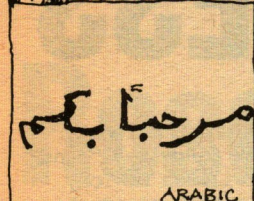
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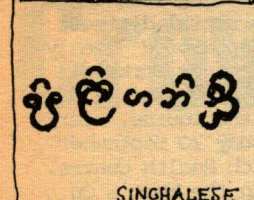


ARABIC



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GUJARATI



SINGHALESE



BEM-VINDOS

PORTUGUESE



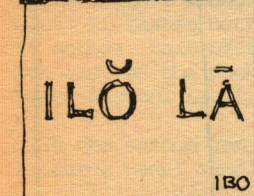
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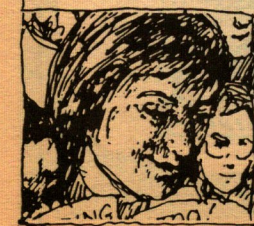
ΚΑΛΩΣΟΡΙΖΕΤΕ

GREEK



AKWABA

TWI & FANTI



HOAN NGHÂN

VIETNAMESE



BIENVENIDOS

SPANISH



स्वागतम्

HINDI

WELCOME
TO
HACKNEY
ADULT
EDUCATION

Adult Education in Hackney

Accountancy for Community

Groups
African Cookery
African Dance
African Drumming
Alternative Medicine
Amateur Radio
Arabic
Arithmetic
Art
Assertiveness Training for Women
Astrology
Badminton
Basic Electronics
Basketball
Batik & Tie Dyeing
Bengali
Black Women's Art Studies
Black Women's Studies
Breadmaking
Bridge
Cake Decorating
Calligraphy
Canoeing
Car Maintenance
Chess
Childminders Drop in
Choral Group
Clothing Design
Computers — an introduction
Confectionery/Patisserie Making
Cookery
Co-operatives — what are they?
Crafts & Christmas Decorations
Creative Machine Knitting
Cutting Childrens Hair

Dance:

Ballroom
Contemporary Jazz
Latin American
Modern Sequence
Old Tyme
Tap
Discussion Group
Dog Training
Dress Design
Dressmaking
Drumming
Electricity in the Home
Embroidery
English as a second language
Fencing
First Aid
Fitness Training for Men
Fitness Training for Adults
Fitness Training with dance
Flower Arrangement
Football Training
French
Furnishing for the Home
Gardening/Indoor
German
Golf
Graphic Communication
Greek
Greek Dance
Guitar Classical
Guitar Folk
Gujerati
Hackney People's Marching Band
Health & Beauty Care
Hebrew (Modern)
Historical London

Home Maintenance

Home Maintenance for Women
Indian Dancing
Irish Studies
Irish Tin Whistle
Islamic Cultural Studies for Women
Italian
Jewellery
Judo
Karate
Keep Fit for Women
Kendo
Knitting & Crochet
Life Drawing
Lip Reading
Literacy (Reading & Writing)
Living alone in Hackney
Living and Working with the Deaf
London Past & Present
Machine Knitting
Machine Knitting and Tapestry Weaving
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Maths for You
Metalwork
Millinery
Motor Cycle Maintenance
Music & Movement
Netball
News Media Project
Numeracy
Over 50's Groups
Para-psychology (ESP)
Patchwork
Pensioners Discussion Group
Photography

Piano

Picture Frame Making
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Puppetry
Punjabi
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and we will send you one

**Enrolment week is from
19 September to 23 September**

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INSIDE BRITAIN'S OLDEST COLONY

Last month the East London Troops Out Movement organised a 3 day visit to Belfast. During its stay the delegation enjoyed the hospitality of the Catholic community and visited such renown sites as the Lower Falls Road, the Moyard Housing Estate, and Ballymurphy. An HPP contributor who was on the delegation brought back this report from Belfast.

I must admit that my main motive for taking a place on the TOM delegation was curiosity. I knew a bit about Northern Ireland: that the IRA are not random terrorists and their cause, a united Irish Republic, is a good one, and that the Catholic ghettos suffer oppression and discrimination. But I didn't know what it was like to live in a war zone. Now I know.

Falls Road

The first thing you notice, on entering the Lower Falls district, is the vast amount of barbed wire and fencing needed to protect the civic buildings and in contrast, the massive, beautiful wall

high street, stopping, crouching and swinging round their rifles every few steps to 'cover' each other. Shoppers look on, slightly amused while these nervous teenagers act as if they are hunting in a hostile jungle. The trouble is they are. Given the size and closeness of extended Catholic families, everyone here knows some relative who has been shot by the armed forces, interned in Long Kesh (the Maze), or merely been picked up and interrogated for a few days in the dreaded Castlereagh holding centre in Belfast.

The Army is only the most obvious sign of the repression that is necessary just to ensure the day-to-day running of Northern Ireland,

Also hundreds of frogs and rats from a nearby filled-in dam run in the streets. The dogs and cats which most tenants own to kill the vermin, create further health problems. It is hardly surprising then that there are many serious cases of jaundice and gastro-enteritis among the estate's babies. One 17-month old boy has died of gastro-enteritis and another baby has had the only reported case of polio in Belfast for the last five years. Incredibly, when presented with the evidence of a damning bacteriological analysis of the water supply, Department of the Environment officials suggested that the tenants were sabotaging their own pipes with bicycles and mattresses! This is a physical impossibility and a gross insult to the Moyard tenants.

demolition

Due to the slap-dash design and lack of maintenance, damp is rife in most of the maisonettes with sometimes only one room inhabitable, the family sleeping on a mattress in the living-room. The Housing Executive is unwilling to rehouse the tenants despite their well-argued case for the demolition of Moyard, and the repair van is a rare sight in the neighbourhood - unless there are T.V. cameras around. (On the other hand, the Army has had no problems in demolishing some Moyard maisonettes which they had taken over a few years earlier as part of an army base.)

on the dole

There is similar tale of calculated neglect to be told about the infamous Divis flats - except here unemployment is even higher than Moyard's 67% - among men it is 87%! The problems of bringing up a family on state benefits are tough, but when these are topped by deductions of rent and electricity at source to pay off debts, life becomes impossible! The Payment of Debt Act was introduced a few years ago by the non-Republican Catholic party, the SDLP, as a way of paying back a successful Republican rent strike. Similar measures are now being introduced in Britain for slightly different reasons, but certainly because the state finds them 'effective'. The same is true of the various 'hard' policing methods which have all been tried first in Northern Ireland by the RUC like heavy surveillancing,



Fort Jericho, Belfast.

mass arrests and deadly plastic bullets.

But against all this, the Catholic community sticks together to ensure its own survival. Having seen the ineffectiveness of the Civil Rights movement in the 60's and the sell-outs of the SDLP in the 70's, the Catholic community now realises that Northern Ireland is unreformable and that Sinn Féin is their only real remaining choice. Their name means 'we alone' in Gaelic, and the more socially responsible role that Sinn Féin have taken on in recent years has made them incredibly popular. Their posters are everywhere in the Ballymurphy area where we stayed and their advice centres, which deal with everything from domestic violence to lessons in Gaelic, are well-respected locally because they refuse to act as reformist apologists for the state when sorting out housing or dole problems. The Provisional Irish Republican Army themselves

are local heroes, being seen as far more reliable community police than the Protestant RUC as well being freedom fighters. At the anti-internment rally we attended, the cheers when the 'Provos' were mentioned drowned out all the others by comparison.

The most enjoyable part of the visit was our two trips to Republican clubs in Belfast. Once past the forbidding fencing and safely inside the anonymous breeze-blocks, the atmosphere was friendly, the people were even more open than in 'the South' and the Guinness was just as good. For a few hours, sitting there listening to three old women on the next table raucously singing Rebel songs, you could forget you were staying in a war-zone and imagine a free Ireland... and one day that will surely happen because, as someone once said, "You can't put a rope round the neck of an idea."

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Wall mural, Falls Road

murals on the Falls Road, open symbols of the Catholic community's unquenchable spirit. Then you see a building uglier than the rest, a monolith of black brick and corrugated iron. Only the surveillance camera on a 40 foot pole that swivels after you with impersonal interest betrays any signs of life. It is an army fort, one of twelve in Belfast.

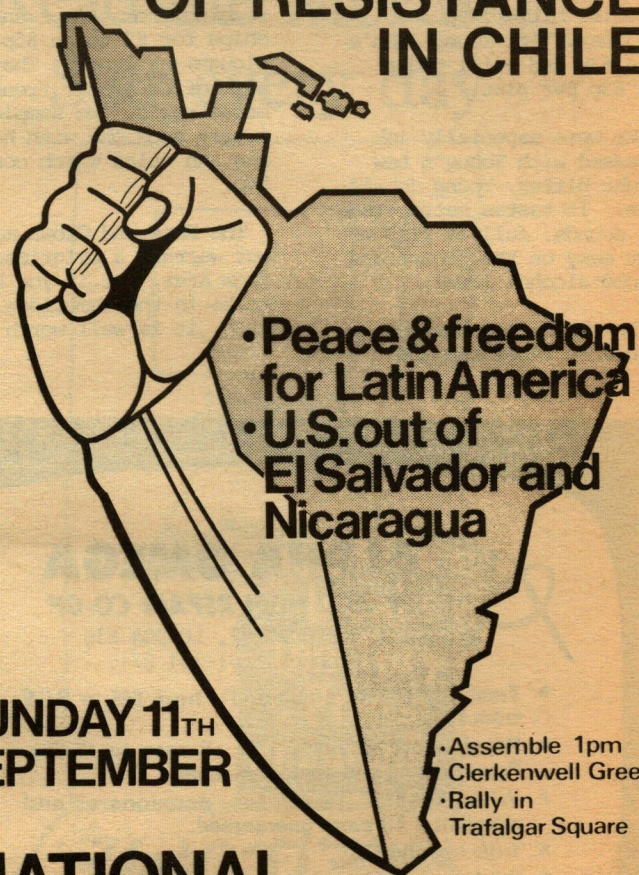
The British Army's presence here is constant and intimidating. A surveillance helicopter hovers ominously overhead. Jeeps with armed soldiers looking out the back zoom up and down the Falls Road. The nearest they come to meeting the people they are supposed to be protecting is when a group of five or six soldiers stalk down the

a bizarre statelet whose only 'raison d'être' is its sectarianism. For when the Partition of Ireland was drawn up in 1920, its size and shape were determined by the need to maintain a Loyalist majority without being too small to be indefensible by that majority.

Poverty and bad housing are overtly political weapons in Northern Ireland used to keep the Catholic minority in its place. The Moyard Housing Estate must be one of the most unhealthy places to live in Western

Europe. A prime example of sixties cost cutting architecture, the Moyard is built on undrained marshes with an inadequate drainage system. Raw sewage flows in the streets where children play.

1973-1983: TEN YEARS OF RESISTANCE IN CHILE



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Pub of the Month

Rose and Crown

13 MARE STREET
E8



Despite its situation, next to the Grand Union canal, the Ash Grove bus garage, an elevated railway line and a gas works, the Rose and Crown still manages to possess a sense of character and a pleasant environment.

It achieves this effect in part by retaining separate public and saloon bars. The bar area forms an island that separates the two halves of the pub.

The public bar is a meeting place for driver and conductors from the Ash Grove LT garage (hopefully after they've finished their shifts). Consequently the bar is almost always lively. As well as bars, the Rose & Crown offers a good choice in beers. Public bar prices are: Special bitter 75p, Ordinary 71p, Young John's ale 63p and still cider at 63p per pint.

We were especially impressed with Young's new light bitter, Young John's ale. It tastes better than it sounds, full of flavour but easy on the pocket and blood-alcohol level.

In the saloon bar our research panel sampled

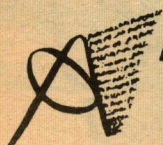
lager, special and ordinary bitters. Most of the clientele were lager drinkers turning the Friday lunchtime session into a giant office party.

The special tasted stale, as though it was past its prime. Perhaps it's just too strong and heavy to be a popular summertime drink. The ordinary was more palatable, with a sharp, but refreshing taste. With a full body and its distinctive flavour it can be a very appealing pint on a hot day.

The "character" of the saloon bar combines plastic chandeliers, a yellowing moulded plaster ceiling and a fading, slightly tacky multi-patterned carpet. The bar serves food ranging from scampi and chips for £2 to an 85p ploughman's lunch. They also offer exotic french bread rolls. We sampled a very good one with ham, egg and salad which cost 58p.

The Rose and Crown may not warrant a pilgrimage from afar, but if you happen to be in the Cambridge Heath area, it is well worth a visit.

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REVIEWS

Juke & cabaret

The Crown & Castle, situated on the corner of Dalston Junction, is probably the best entertainment venue in Hackney. At the moment there are two regular nights: rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll at the Juke Joint on thursdays and Cabaret on Saturdays. On recent Friday nights Hackney Musicians Collective bands including Graffiti, Walking Wounded and the Parkdown Jets have played at the Meeting Place lounge.

This large upstairs room separate from the rest of the pub makes for an intimate (sweaty) club atmosphere which the midnight bar extension lubricates.

The cabaret started over two years ago as just one part of a proposed all-week variety show involving local artistes. The other evenings never materialised but the emphasis on new local talent continues in the cabaret. Several stars of stage and screen like the Joeys, Roy Hutchins and Simon Fanshawe got their first breaks here. An amateur cabaret night running every eight Sunday has recently been started. After various permutations, the cabaret is now run by a women's collective in which Jean Nicholson and Debbie Scott are the longest-serving members. Everything from booking the acts to cooking and selling snacks is done voluntarily although the collective would like to rectify this and have applied to Hackney council and the GLC for money to fund a part-time worker and running costs.

The Juke Joint, on the other hand, is a recent phenomenon, having been in existence for three months.

ON VIDEO AT THE RIO

"Who killed Colin Roach?", the video by Isaac Julien, will be on show at the Rio Cinema in Kingsland High Street from 15 to 28 September at 6.30pm. Although the inquest is over the video is a timely reminder that a full enquiry into Colin's death and the behaviour of the Stoke Newington police is still needed. The video projection, lasting about 37

minutes, will take place before the main programme begins. Anyone who just wants to see "Who killed Colin Roach?" will be able to do so free. This is the first time the Rio has shown a video in this way, so go along and see it for yourself.

Something else to look out for at the Rio this month is a film that has hardly

Ragged trouser hit

Still running at the Half Moon Theatre is Stephen Lowe's fine adaption of the classic socialist novel The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists. Set around the turn of the century, it describes the lives and work of a group of house-painters and decorators, exposes how they are exploited by the capitalist system that employs them and examines how some-- but by no means all-- come to realise that only a socialist transformation will enable working people to live lives of decency and dignity.

It's exciting, stirring and dramatic stuff, performed with vigour and relish by the small cast who demonstrate exactly the meaning of the phrase "sweated labour" by the intensity of their work, slapping paint onto walls and pasting up wallpaper with gusto. They dread the power that their employer Rushton and their works forman Hunter have over them. Will he take them on for another week? Will he try and cut their wages again? Slowly some come to join Owen, the socialist, in standing up and fighting back by joining together under the union banner.

The programme notes, written on the day after the disastrous General Election result in June, calls for people not to betray those men and women who fought over decades with perception and vision, like Robert Tressell, the author of the original novel. We must, says Stephen Lowe, "band together... around the essential nature of Socialism, fired with anger at the way those in power dispense with our lives, and inspired with the challenge to our human creativity of the possibilities open to us all." Quite so.

Crass

CRASS: CHRIST THE ALBUM
Christ the Album is a black box with two LPs, a book and a poster. The book is called 'A Series of Shock Slogans and Mindless Token Tantrums'. The album is partly live and partly studio. Good in a way for Crass and not at all boring. It is great to hear Crass singing things which mean something to them and to me anyway. They have something to say -- most bands don't and that is good, saying what you feel. Christ the Album is good! You can buy the book in Centreprise. Steve King

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WHAT'S ON

All listings on this page are free. If you are organising an event or meeting then send us details and we will publicise it for you. The copy date for the October issue is FRIDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER.

If you want to advertise on this page then our rates are very cheap: write to us for full details and rate card.

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★ **SEPTEMBER BANDSTAND** ★

MONDAYS	★ REACTORS "3 piece, power pop. Recommended"	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 7th/14th	POOR BOYS "Tex Mex, Louisiana Style R'n'B"	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 21st	DANCE HALL STYLE Afro/ Caribbean 'Joy de vivre'	£1.00
WEDNESDAY 28th	OPPOSITION	£1.00
THURSDAY 1st/8th	★ BREAKFAST BAND	£2.00
THURSDAY 15th	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
THURSDAY 22nd	BLUEBERRIES	£1.50
THURSDAY 29th	HANK WANGFORD	£2.50
FRIDAY 2nd/9th	JUICE ON THE LOOSE	£1.50
FRIDAY 16th	★ REPUBLIC	£2.00
FRIDAY 23rd/30th	JUICE ON THE LOOSE	£1.50
SATURDAYS	BIG CHIEF "Jazz, funk & flogg featuring JOHN FRY, ART THEMEN & DAVE CHAMBERS"	£1.50
SUNDAY 4th	DANCE HALL STYLE Afro/Caribbean 'Joy de vivre'	£1.50
SUNDAY 11th/18th	★ CHEVALLIER BROTHERS "Jazz, Jump, n'jive"	£1.50
SUNDAY 25th	★ CAYENNE "Latin-Funk Big Band."	£2.00

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THE RIO

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SEPTEMBER FEATURES

THU 1	THU 15	THU 29
FRI 2	FRI 16	FRI 30
SAT 3	SAT 17	SAT 1
SUN 4	SUN 18	SUN 8
MON 5	MON 19	MON 15
TUE 6	TUE 20	TUE 22
WED 7	WED 21	WED 29
THU 8	THU 22	THU 30
FRI 9	FRI 23	FRI 31
SAT 10	SAT 24	SAT 2
SUN 11	SUN 25	SUN 9
MON 12	MON 26	MON 16
TUE 13	TUE 27	TUE 23
WED 14	WED 28	WED 30

THE GIRL WITH THE RED HAIR
A Film by BEN VERDONG 8.50
BALL OF FIRE 7.00 Barbara Stanwick/ Gary Cooper

ANDROID
A masterpiece. Don't miss it! NME
Fritz Lang's classic
METROPOLIS 7.00

WHO KILLED COLIN ROACH
Daily 6.30. Admission Free. videorec by ISAAC JULIAN
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ROACH FAMILY SUPPORT COMMITTEE WELCOME

SOPHIE'S CHOICE
15(AA) 7.15

FANNY AND ALEXANDER
A FILM BY ROYAL BORDMAN
7.15

HANDGUN
Ronald Reagan Ginger Rogers + Doris Day in
STORM MARKING 7.15

Olivia
a film by Jacqueline Audry
from the novel 'Olivia' by 'Olivia'
with Edwige Fenech Simone Simon
Claire Olivia 6.30pm and 9.00pm

EATING RAOUL
9.00

WEDNESDAY 7
Roman Polanski's
CUL DE SAC 7.00
with Donald Pleasance

WEDNESDAY 14
JAMES M. CAIN DOUBLE BILL
TYPE version of
THE POSTMAN ALWAYS
RINGS TWICE. 7.00
with Lana Turner,
John Garfield.

WEDNESDAY 21
VIOLENT STREETS 7.15
with James Caan
BLUE COLLAR 9.15
dir Paul Schrader
with Richard Prior
Harvey Keitel, Yaphet
Kotto.

WEDNESDAY 28
REPRESENTATION OF THE
EAST END
SPARROWS CAN'T SING 7.15
dir. Joan Littlewood
with Barbara Windsor,
Roy Kinnear.

WEDNESDAY 5
SCENES FROM CLASS STRUGGLE
IN PORTUGAL.
"GOOD PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL"
(BON POVO PORTUGUES)
phone cinema for
confirmation.

SUNDAY 4
NO INTERVENTION IN
CENTRAL AMERICA 2.30
Films "SANDINO"
TODAY AND FOREVER
A'EL SALVADOR-
REVOLUTION OR DEATH"
speakers from Nicaraguan
Embassy, El Salvador
Solidarity Campaign,
East London CEB
Nicaragua Working Group,
Chaired by David Roberts M.P.

SUNDAY 11
10th ANNIVERSARY OF
COOP IN CHILE
MISSING 2.30 (on)
dir. Costa-Gavras
with Jack Lemmon &
Sissy Spacek
BATTLE OF CHILE 'pt 1'
The power of the people
dir. Patricio Guzman.
4.35

THURSDAY 15
SCHOOLS MATINEE
MISSING 2.15
all tickets 1.00
SUNDAY 1
KOLARIS 1.00
TUE. NIGHT. JANUARY 1974
MONDAY 19
LIVE ON STAGE 2.00
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A
THE GLEN MILLER STORY

THURSDAY 22
SCHOOLS MATINEE
KES 2.15
all tickets 1.00
SUNDAY 25
THE HALTIEF FALCON 2.30
with HUMPHRY BOGART
DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR
FLAID 4.15
with STEVE MARTIN

THURSDAY 29
SCHOOLS MATINEE 2.15
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
all tickets 1.00
SUNDAY 2
HOMER ONLY SCREENING
"FRIENDS AND LOVERS"
LIZARDUS working
led by Caroline Shelton
starts 7pm
KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE
(LIZARDUS)
LUNCH IN SIX UNUSUAL
SITS CHRISTIAN
NONE MOVIE

Meetings

WHY OLD PEOPLE with Mental and Emotional problems get a raw deal.

Speaker: Dr Tony Whitehead, pioneer of community-based psychogeriatric services.

Monday 12 September, 7.15pm, Homerton Library, Homerton High Street, E9.

Organised by the City & Hackney Association for Mental Health

Other events

WEA Courses

MENTAL DISTRESS IN OLD AGE—How to cope.

A six-meeting WEA course to consider the mental and emotional problems that elderly people face, and how to improve support facilities.

Starts Tuesday 20 September, 7.00pm, at the CHC office, Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Fee: £3.60 (Claimants £1.20). Contact: Andrew Roberts, 177 Glenam Rd, E5. Telephone: 986 5251

THE EAST END IN FILM

A 13 week course run in conjunction with the RIO Cinema. Films to be shown include: Threepenny Opera, The Long Good Friday and The Blue Lamp. Registration: 21 September, 6.30pm at the RIO.

REPUTATIONS AND REALITIES:

A course run by Jean Milloy and Rebecca O'Rourke that will examine what it was like to be a woman writer in the 1920s and 30s. Starts 26 September, 7.30pm at the Fire Station, Leswin Rd. N16. Further WEA classes start in October. Details next month.

STREET PARTY!

The Dalston Community Centre Project is organising a Festival to be held in Montague Road on September 10. The Festival, intended to attract local interest in the new centre, starts at 12 noon and will feature a procession, sports events, multi-cultural food, entertainments and side shows. SEE YOU THERE

Music

FOREST PEACE FESTIVAL '83
This year showcases singer/

songwriter Mike Moran, Dr K's Blues Band as well as Morris and Bengali dancing. Saturday 10 September, 7pm, at the Friends Meeting House, Bush Road, Leytonstone, E11. £1 Adults, 50p concessions.

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CHATS PALACE

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Important: As Chats Palace has a club licence all users of the building must be members or their guests.

Fri 2	8pm	Chats Palace Funk-Nite featuring Klymax Seventh Heaven and Soul Sound. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 3	8pm	The return of the Nutclub. The best of Hackney Variety and Cabaret madness. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sun 4		Noon Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith and friends. Free
Tues 6	7.30pm	*Homerton Development Campaign launching A.G.M.
Wed 7	8.30pm	Chatsbah Night. Jazz and Blues piano in the bar with Phil Greenwood. Free.
Thur 8	8.30pm	Due to public demand we bring you another Rock'n'Roll Dance Class with Warren. £1.50/75p unwaged.
Fri 9	8pm	*Benefit for La Pluma women's writing collective. With Abandon Your Tutus, Wild Girls and Viv's Disco. A Women's Event. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 10	8pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser with Poison Girls plus support. £1.50
Sun 11		Noon Lunchtime Jazz with the Rae James Quintet. Free
Wed 14	8.30pm	Chatsbah Night. Irish music in the bar with guest musicians. Free.
Thur 15	8.30pm	Trad Jazz Special in the bar with Graham Read's Futuristic Rhythm Free.
Fri 16		Little Women present "See Red" — a jungle thriller with music. New show hot from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. £2/£1 unwaged.
Sat 17	8pm	
Sun 18		Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with Jazz Sviners. Free
Wed 21	8.30pm	Chatsbah Night. Live music in the bar with reggae pianist Floyd Lloyd and Veronica on sax and flute. Free.
Thur 22	1.30pm 7.30pm	Chats Palace Senior Citizens Club present Age Exchange Theatre Company in their latest show. Free Chats Palace Fundraiser. The youth of Homerton and district bring you a night of music, dance, theatre and madness. £1/50p unwaged.
Fri 23	8pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser. With Floyd Lloyd, Gene Rondo, East-West Effect and more. £1.
Sat 24	8pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser. Women's Cabaret Night with The Eno Sisters, Little Women, Jane Atkinson, Norma Cohen and much much more. £1.50.
Sun 25		Noon. Lunchtime Jazz with the Mike Mower Quartet. Free.
Wed 28	8.30pm	Chatsbah Night. An evening of nostalgia — 40's swing and blues with The Eno Sisters and The Backing Burps plus guests Free.
Thur 29	8pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser. Highlife Dance It Up Night with People's Unlimited and Supercombo. £1.
Fri 30	8pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser. All the way from Bradford we bring you Omega Tribe and Gumba Wumba. £1.50.
Sat 1 Oct	8pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser. Hackney favourites Alan Gilbey, Dave Fox, See You In Vegas and The Mekons. £1.50.
Sun 2	8pm	Chats Palace Fundraiser. Grande Finale cabaret night with Spare Tyre Theatre Company, The Touch, John Hegley and The Popticians and much more. £1.50.

*Indicates outside hirer

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8th	SONNY KING AND HIS SONS OF SWING	2nd	
15th	ELECTRIC BLUEBIRDS	2nd	CAROLÉ GRIMES AND THE CROCODILES

ADMISSION £ 1.50 (1.00 UB40 S.U)

Women's Centre

Continued from page 1.

to functions at the centre because they were too left wing.

* staff were instructed to avoid contacts with "left-wing" community groups

* Women's centre staff were to be vetted and unsuitable people eased out.

The police are also supporting centre moves to set up a women's refuge. The

management has approached Hackney Housing Department to ask for premises to



Amarjit Kochhar

rival the facilities provided by the Hackney Women's Aid group, which has a more feminist orientation and is less cosy with the police.

Heaven says that these moves fit into Police Commissioner Kenneth Newman's master plans for social control. "Safe" centres like the one on Downs Road provide the police with 'allies in the community'. The police see these havens as outposts of conventional values amid the sea of poverty and radicalism in Hackney. It all sounds disturbingly like a colonial pacification programme.

Brynley Heaven's allegations are difficult to substantiate, but they possess a twisted logic that makes them sound plausible. However one fact remains unchanged: Amarjit Kochhar was dismissed against all the norms of natural justice. She is still awaiting written confirmation of her position with the Downs Road Centre for Women.

SCHOOL THREAT

Twenty-one Hackney schools start their autumn term this month not knowing for certain whether all the asbestos in them has been removed safely over the summer holidays.

The Hackney Teachers Association (the local branch of the NUT) has written to the Health and Safety Officer at each of these schools advising them that if they are in any doubt as to the safety of the their schools they should refuse to teach.

At one school, William Patten in Stoke Newington, the HTA representative and an independent expert found lumps of asbestos in the school playground just ten days before school began. A hut that had been used as a classroom had been uprooted and removed and a "real mess" had been left. The HTA rep informed the Council's Environmental Health officer.

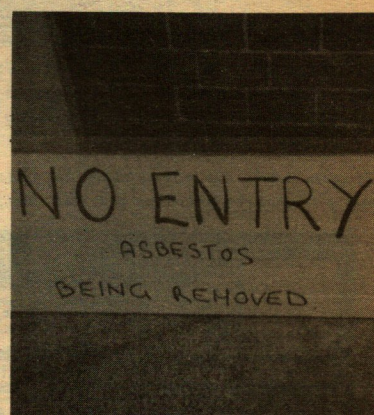
The asbestos-removal over

the summer followed a lot of shilly-shallying by ILEA over the last nine months.

Refused

They refused the request by HTA for a public meeting on the subject, and also refused to lead a campaign to put pressure on the Government to take firm action. ILEA also took on a South African firm of contractors (with the approval of the Labour Group). This firm, Cape Products, not only makes profits from the deaths of thousands of South African asbestos workers, but it makes further profits from the contracts it wins to remove the stuff later. Hardly a principled position for a supposedly radical authority to take!

It is quite likely that many Hackney children will



start the new term being bussed to a distant school because the teachers have refused to work in their own. Hardly a good start to the new year - especially with so many children starting out at school. It's a situation that ILEA could have avoided if it had been more open and direct.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Wednesday 14 September.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If your newsagent doesn't sell it - and you think that he or she would like to, then please contact us. We can arrange delivery on sale or return regularly at the beginning of each month.

If you enjoy reading HPP and think that more people should read it please get in touch with us if you are willing to sell a few copies to friends or neighbours or at meetings. Even if you don't have the time to get more fully involved, we would still be pleased to hear from you.

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

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Refusing to pay

Eight East London CND supporters were sentenced in Oxfordshire at the end of August for their part in the June blockade of the Upper Heyford US Air Force base in which a total of 752 people were arrested. Two others had their cases dismissed by the magistrate because the police cases were so weak. Only a few people have been acquitted so far amongst the hundreds brought to court.

The two acquitted were Marg Berman of Tower Hamlets and Irene Kaye of Hackney. The

eight others, mainly from Hackney, pleaded not guilty to the charge of obstruction on the grounds that they had legal and moral justification for their action.

In a statement made to the court they argued that the threatened use or use of nuclear weapons was banned by international law, and that their minor breach of the law was committed to prevent a much more terrible crime, "the destruction of civilisation."

Andrew Haig of Clapton

told the court: "I acted to save myself and my teenage daughter from a fearful nuclear death. I have tried every other means of protest: civil disobedience was the only means left open to me."

All eight, whose ages range from 19 to 55, were found guilty and six of them were ordered to pay contributions to the prosecution costs. All of them announced that they did not regard themselves as guilty, and had no intention of paying.

THE ISLINGTON GUTTER PRESS

and us...

Some of our readers will have heard of the Islington Gutter Press, no doubt some of you also read the Gutter Press. For those Hackney people who haven't come across the Gutter Press, it is an Islington paper that is similar in many aspects to HPP. They describe themselves as an independent Socialist monthly-- but have unfortunately been forced to

bring out a combined August/September issue due to a financial crisis.

HPP and the Gutter Press recently met to talk about matters of mutual interest: the future of the alternative London media in the mid '80s, finance, advertising production, etc. One suggestion involved a merger, but this was felt to be impractical given the distinctive geographical, political and

social differences between the areas. As the Gutter Press say in their current issue:

"It would need a book to bring them up to date with the ongoing saga which weaves its way in and out of our pages."

For the time being we are exchanging ads, keeping in touch with each other and exchanging information and articles where appropriate.

We are also toying with the idea of a joint fundraising event, perhaps a booksale. We would both be interested to hear the views of HPP/GP readers on any issue related to the local media. Write to HPP, c/o 10a Bradbury St, N16, and/or the IGP, c/o Community Press, 2a St Pauls Road, N1. And if you happen to have any unwanted books.....

